

## Letter from the Editor



As we write this, we don't know if the tax cuts will be extended or if health reform will withstand court challenge. What we do know is what we stated in December, "the immediate economic forecast will be as bleak as the upcoming winter."

Did you see the article about food pantries in the December 5, 2010 Post-Gazette? "Almost 100,000 more Pennsylvania households were receiving supplemental nutrition assistance, or food stamps, this October [2010] than last October [2009]..." The article quoted Joyce Rothermel of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank as saying

that the food bank's network and direct distribution sites have counted roughly **2,500 new households every month since August 2008**. The emphasis is ours; the discomfort should be yours. On December 11, the Brookline Community Food Bank had a line extending halfway up Chelton Avenue.

It's a time to pitch in and help each other. Volunteer more and complain less. Volunteering helps, complaining doesn't. We find ourselves thinking of Thomas Paine's words. "These are the times that try men's souls." We would humbly add our words. These are the times that plumb the depth of our caring, our creativity and our investment in the community.

Have you ever been involved in a project that you were sure would fail? There was too much work and too few hands. But, somehow, those few hands worked together and pulled it off. Everyone was dog-tired and giddy at the same time because the project was accomplished through hard work, group effort, and tapping the creative juices to solve all obstacles. You pitted yourself against the "can't do" and made it a "can do" through sheer willpower. We need that willpower now folks more than ever. It's going to take every one of us helping each other. In the end, we want to be able to look around dog-tired, but giddy as we bask in a community that said, "We can do."



## BOULEVARD TOBACCO OUTLET

721 Brookline Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15226  
412-306-9910

Hours: Mon.— Sat. 9:00AM to 9:00PM  
Sun.

Did you know you can buy a cigarette extinguisher? This clever device extinguishes that cigarette you lit just as the 41D Brookline came into view. Then you have the cigarette saver for storing that two-puff smoke until you can light it again.

**Boulevard Tobacco Outlet** is an emporium for the smoking crowd. **Smita Shah** recognized the absence of a tobacco store on the boulevard. She carries a wide array of tobacco products including Djarum in clove, chocolate and vanilla, and American Spirit. **Boulevard Tobacco Outlet** also carries natural tobacco as well as a wide variety of papers and filters for the smoker who makes his own. She also carries Magic 25, a clear cigarette filter that traps tar and nicotine.

In addition to satisfying the cigarette smoker, **Boulevard Tobacco Outlet** has cigars, pipes and pipe tobacco. You can even find a corncob pipe here. The front case (pictured below) has several hookahs. This Eastern smoking pipe has become popular recently with a hookah bar on East Carson Street. Check out Smita's selection of hookahs.



Don't smoke? Well don't write **Boulevard Tobacco Outlet** off your list yet. The store has an ATM, money orders, Western Union, and a wide selection of snack food, cold drinks and magazines.

If you were using Boulevard News as your Pennsylvania Lottery outlet, then you will be happy to hear that you can get your lottery fix at **Boulevard Tobacco Outlet**. Stop in and check out the store. You'll know where to go the next time you run out for a paper, a bag of chips, and a pack of smokes.

-Pamela Grabowski  
-Photos by Catia Alencar

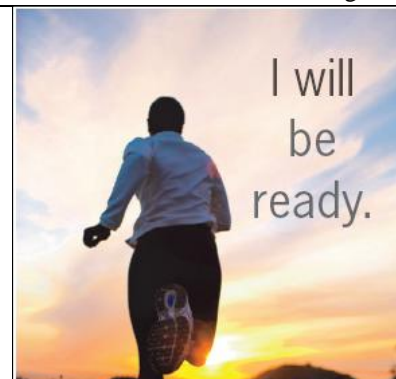


## NEWSLETTER FUNDRAISING

If you are a merchant who would like a donation box, either call us at 412-343-2859 or ask Rosemarie when she delivers your next month's newsletters. We will happily provide a donation box and make monthly collections. Become a sustaining friend of **The Brookline**.

Donations thru November 2010:  
**Cannon Coffee - \$81.00**  
**Kribel's Bakery - \$109.70**

**REQUEST A BOX AND ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST.**



### Keystone Rehabilitation Systems

968 Brookline Blvd  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15226  
 Phone: 412.563.1076  
 Adrienne Zeiler, DPT

### PHYSICAL THERAPY



## BROOKLINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHRISTMAS PARTY



Photos by *Lee Herbermann*



The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** held their Annual Christmas Party Monday December 13 at **Seton Center**. Members of **SPDC**, **BACC** and the Chamber enjoyed the joyful social to offer each other a Happy Holiday. Donations from the event will go to **Brookline Food Bank** and **St. Mark's Meals on Wheels**.  
*-Linda Boss*



We are so embarrassed. That wonderful article on **Carmalt School** in our December issue was written by **Michael Kravitz**, a sophomore broadcasting major at Point Park University. The photos were taken by **Thomas Preston**, a science teacher at **Carmalt School**. When we inserted the cropped photos, we cropped **Michael Kravitz** and **Thomas Preston** right out of the article. We do apologize.

### THE BROOKLINE PAST ISSUES

Clint Burton has archived past issues of **The Brookline** at [www.brooklineconnection.com](http://www.brooklineconnection.com).



Your \$10 annual membership in **SPDC** supports projects like Jacob-Whited, DogiPots and **The Brookline**. Join today. See mailing address below.

### CONTACT THE BROOKLINE

#### The Brookline Staff

*Pamela Grabowski* Editor

*Jan Beiler* Proofreader/Advertising

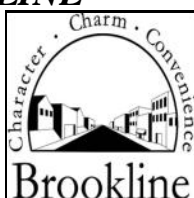
*Amy Fisher* Proofreader

*Julie Salas* Proofreader

*Catia Alencar* Photographer

*Rosemarie Traficante* Delivery

*South Hills Printing* - *The Brookline's official printer*



We want to hear from you. Send your questions or comments by email, phone or mail. February issue's deadline is January 12. March issue's deadline is February 12.

#### \*\*\*\*\*ADVERTISING RATES\*\*\*\*\*

Contact Pamela Grabowski at [mnp.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net) or call 412-343-2859 for more information. We now have over 1,300 readers.

The **Brookline** by email is in **FULL COLOR!**

The **Brookline** is also available by mail. A one year subscription is \$15 with your \$10 membership to **SPDC**.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: [thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org](mailto:thebrookline@brookline-pgh.org) or [mnp.grabowski@verizon.net](mailto:mnp.grabowski@verizon.net)

Telephone: 412-343-2859

Mail: **The Brookline**, PO Box 96136, Pittsburgh, PA 15226.

Standard ads are a width of 3.75 inches. We charge by the height of the ad at \$12.00 per inch. This is an example of a one inch ad space.

Remember ad graphics and artwork are free! Call us to place your ad in **The Brookline**.

Pick up **The Brookline** at a Boulevard merchant. Look for "The Brookline Available Here" sign in the window.

Copyright 2008, South Pittsburgh Development Corporation - All Rights Reserved



**CUTS & STYLES**

- Cuts
- Color
- Hilites
- Perms
- Extensions
- Updos
- Body Waxing

748 Brookline Blvd  
Pittsburgh, PA 15226  
Tel 412.969.4630

**SPECIAL Full-head "Hilites" \$50**

**OVER 100 YEARS QUALITY SERVICE**

Plumbing  
Heating  
Air Conditioning  
Water Heaters  
Sewer & Drain Cleaning  
Gas, Water & Sewer Lines  
Emergency Service Available  
Residential & Commercial  
Fully Insured  
Free Estimates



**BROOKLINE PLUMBER**  
**412-531-0183**  
613 Brookline Blvd., Pittsburgh  
Registered Master Plumber # HP 1611



## COUNCILWOMAN NATALIA RUDIAK

The final design plan for the Brookline Boulevard reconstruction is near completion, but one very important thing that is missing are new trees and greenery. The new design plan calls for fewer trees and planters along the boulevard than are there now, so making sure the new Brookline Boulevard is well stocked with nature's best is one of my priorities.

The health and economic benefits of trees and other greenery have been well documented. Studies have shown that an increase in greenery can slow traffic, making neighborhood business districts safer, more pedestrian friendly areas. And the more foot traffic we have on the boulevard, the more of an advantage our Brookline businesses will have.

But trees also have a number of other great benefits. They have been shown to increase the value of property by more than fifteen percent, as well as muffle urban noise, and mature shade trees can help save quite a bit of money on air conditioning expenses in the summer. In fact, studies have shown that parts of cities without cooling shade from trees can literally be "heat islands," with temperatures as much as 12 degrees higher than surrounding areas! During the winter months, trees can also act as windbreaks—which can lower heating bills by up to thirty percent.

If you would like to support trees or other greenery, such as planters, on the new Brookline Blvd, please contact City of Pittsburgh Urban Forester **Lisa Ceoffe** at (412) 393-0154. There are many great ways to support trees in our neighborhood business district, including becoming a certified tree tender. To learn more, please visit <http://www.treepittsburgh.org/> or call (412) 362-6360.

It would be great to see more trees and greenery along the boulevard, but we need your help. If you would be willing to volunteer even a small amount of time throughout the year to help maintain trees or flowers along the boulevard, please contact our office at (412) 255-2131 and let us know! Please don't hesitate to contact my office at any time about this or any other issue.



**IT'S THE SEASON. PLEASE CLEAN YOUR SIDEWALK!**

**CALL 311 TO REPORT LOCATION OF SIDEWALKS NOT SHOVELED**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

Make one of your New Year's resolutions to serve & support your community. Shopping at your locally owned independent businesses brings back more dollars to the community. Local independent businesses & the Chamber of Commerce support your baseball, football & other sport leagues, churches, Halloween Parade, Breeze Run, and school programs. Each time you choose to spend your dollars at a local business you are saying "Yes" to the continued strength and vitality of our community. VOLUNTEER – many of our churches, sports teams, food bank, Meals on Wheels & other groups are always looking for volunteers. Make yourself feel good by helping your community.

**MJ AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE CENTER LLC**

10 YEARS IN BUSINESS!

**Excellence In Service, Our Motto**  
**Your Guarantee**

**2600 Pioneer Avenue**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15226**  
**(412) 531-9909**




## JOANNE'S CORNER

### Things that aren't here anymore - Part 23

Are you aware that Brookline has a lot of old timers that have lived here for 60 years or more? I am one of them. I recently had the pleasure of visiting with a delightful senior, Sophie Goode, who has lived on Chrysler Street for 65 years. I'm sure a lot of you know Sophie from bingos and casino bus trips. She doesn't get to go as often as she once did, but boy does she keep herself busy. At 93 years old she still drives, taking her lady friends shopping and to the beauty shop. Speaking of that, Sophie did hair in her home for many years. She now passes her time making Dignity Robes for breast cancer patients to wear when they are receiving their radiation. She has made over 1,000 of these and has received a Recognition of Appreciation of which she is very proud. She also knits and crochets items for our soldiers in Afghanistan. Sophie is a prime example of our Brookline Seniors who keep themselves busy while helping others. Good health & happiness to you Sophie. God Bless!

-Joanne Fantoni

### Last Month's Memory Teaser

**Question of the Month:** What was the name of the friendly man who shined shoes for years at Sesto's Barber Shop?

**Answer:** Earl

## Brookline & Pitt Cleaning Up



Brookline participated in the Pitt Make a Difference Day that happened October 16, 2010. The University of Pittsburgh sent **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation** 27 student volunteers. We divided the volunteers into small groups led by eight **SPDC** team leaders

and cleaned up litter at these Brookline sites:

- Brookline Boulevard between West Liberty & Whited Street (1.1 miles)
- Pioneer Avenue Greenway between Moore Park and West Liberty Avenue (.75 miles)
- Capitol Avenue to West Liberty and Stetson Avenue to Pioneer Avenue (.6 miles)

It was a beautiful day and a successful event that netted eight 30-gallon bags of recyclable materials and twenty-five 30-gallon bags of litter.

Volunteers met at **Cannon Coffee**, and **South Pittsburgh Development Corporation** sprung for hot coffee and tea. All of the volunteers were enthusiastic to come out and help keep our neighborhood looking its best! We look forward to participating in the Pitt Make a Difference Day next year.

-Keith Knecht

## READERS' RESPONSE

The pictures and articles [Brookline Fifties Picnic] were great; you covered it very well. I really enjoyed your paper, and maybe some of my memories of Brookline go back a few years. I remember coming down Creedmoore and if we choose to cross the street there, **Alex Hogel** a great kind policeman would swing us in the air. If we wanted to go down the Blvd to Castlegate, the firemen would cross us. We had a great time in those days. The Fourth of July was so great, the ice cream cones, orange juice, Zagnut bars and the free movies at **Brookline School**. Great times in Brookline. P.S. Everywhere you go you meet good people who grew up in Brookline.

-Marie O'Brien

### MINIMIZE GLARE

WHEN DRIVING

WITH POLARIZED EYEWEAR

Starting at \$150.00

(Complete with single vision or 28FT lenses)

**A-BOSS OPTICIANS, INC.**

938 Brookline Blvd. \* 412-561-0811  
SERVING THE SOUTH HILLS AREA  
FOR OVER 39 YEARS \* WE REPAIR



Talk to **TIM**  
Your Brookline Realtor

New Year! New Home?

I will be Happy to help!

**Tim Reitmeyer**

412-833-3600

412-343-5372

treitmeyer@howardhanna.com



South Hills and City of Pittsburgh specialist



P O Box 9610, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15226 412-563-0759

Sponsor of:

Kennywood Picnic      Halloween Parade  
Christmas Lighting      Flag Program  
Little League Team

Co-Sponsor of Brookline Breeze Race and other community programs

Please Support Your Local Brookline Businesses

## A BROOKLINE MEMBER OF THE GREATEST GENERATION



Born in 1922, Brookline resident **Ernie Galco** was just turning 20 years old when WWII started. Shortly after the Pearl Harbor Attack he joined the Merchant Marines. His first sea experience was on a Liberty Ship that was sailing back to port in the Gulf of Mexico. It suddenly was torpedoed and sunk by a German Submarine.

"It happened so fast, and without warning, that there was no time to put down the life boats. The guys in the engine room were lost. We managed to get some wooden rafts into the water and we hung on them for 3 days before we were rescued," Ernie recalls.

Concluding that sailing on an unarmed Merchant Marine Vessel wasn't for him, he joined the Navy. (Enlistment for the Navy in 1942 was for 6 years!!) He went to Boot Camp in Newport, R.I. and then to NY for Gunnery School.

The Navy, ironically, put him on another Liberty Ship (USS John Brown) only this time, he and 19 other Gunners Mates manned 3 inch, 4 inch and 20mm Anti-aircraft guns. All Liberty ships were Merchant Marine so Ernie was technically back where he started!

His home port was Baltimore and each time he returned there, he was assigned to a new Liberty Ship. He would go on to serve on the USS Joshua Chamberlain, the USS B. F. Shaw, and the USS Sublette and after "The War" ended the Carrier USS Tarawa.

His service took him through the Panama Canal (many times) down the coast of South America to Cape Town, to ports in England, Russia, and the Middle East dropping off war materials and supplies along the way. He delivered tanks and ammo to Normandy several days after the "D-Day Europe" invasion and recalls going ashore, standing atop the cliffs and looking out at the amazing display of ships and the equipment on the beach. He also served in the South Pacific and delivered supplies to Australia, the Philippines and too many islands to remember. He recalls, "We got to fire the guns a lot with all the Japanese Aircraft we saw!"

After the war in the Pacific was over, (Ernie was in the Pacific when the Atomic bombs were deployed) his thought was "I gave President Truman the credit for having the guts to use them, otherwise we would have lost hundreds of thousands of our boys if we invaded mainland Japan."

Discharged in 1947, Ernie returned to Brookline, married the girl across the street and raised his family here. He still lives in the house that his parents bought when he was 15 years old (over 70 years ago) and enjoys being retired from the Brookline Journal where he worked as a linotype operator.

The memories that stand out from the War era are:

Being the first from his family to graduate from High School (South Hills)

Being treated as a hero at the ports he visited, just because he was an American

The terrible living condition of the people in the Middle East, mud huts, dirty tents, bread baked with dirt in it, no running water, etc.

Ernie has an impressive display of campaign ribbons and metals that he earned during the war. Being humble he never investigated what he earned but his family many years later, did and applied for them.

His only regret is "The crews of the Merchant Marines have never received the credit for their sacrifices and bravery during the War. Without them the War would have been lost. This country owes them a lot."

As Brookliners, we should be proud to have him in our midst.

-Bob Beiler

**REFINANCE YOUR MORTGAGE TODAY**  
**No closing costs for loans up to \$100,000**  
**Home Equity First**  
**Check out our Great Rates**  
**www.communitybank.tv**  
**Brookline Office**  
**412-531-9677**



Minimum loan amount is \$15,000. This loan requires a first mortgage on an existing residence and the payment drafted from a Community Bank account. Loan is subject to credit approval. Property insurance is required. The offer may be modified or discontinued without prior notice, other rates and terms available.

Member FDIC

*There Is Never Any Reason To Settle  
 For Inferior Funeral Service*

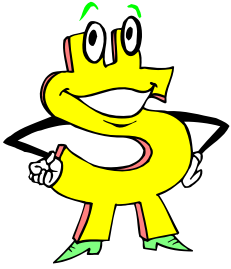
Complete Traditional Funeral Packages  
 Including Casket Starting At \$3,995.00

**DeBOR**  
 FUNERAL HOME, INC.

*The Finest In Funeral  
 Service And Facilities*

**NOW WITH EXPANDED PARKING**  
 1065 Brookline Boulevard  
**412-561-0380**  
 www.deborfuneralhome.com

## SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI) AND OTHER INCOME



You may be able to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), even if you have other income. SSI is a federal program that provides monthly payments to people who have little or no income and who don't own many things. SSI is for elderly people, as well as blind or disabled people of any age, including children. To get SSI, you must be 65 or older, be totally or partially blind, or have a medical condition that keeps you from working and is expected to last at least one year or result in death.

In addition, to be eligible for SSI, you must be a U.S. resident and have resources worth less than \$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple. The resources usually do not include the home you live in, vehicle you drive, funds set aside for burial, or personal items.

Some people believe that if they have other income, they cannot apply for SSI. The fact is that you can apply, as long as your current income is limited. The type and amount of additional income you receive may have an effect on your SSI amount. Right now, the maximum monthly payment for SSI is \$674 for an individual and \$1,011 for a couple.

For SSI purposes, we look at your *monthly* income. For unearned income, such as Social Security benefits, unemployment, worker's compensation or insurance payments, we do not count the first \$20 you receive each month. So, if you get a check for \$200, only \$180 would be counted as income for SSI purposes. After the \$20 exclusion, the remaining money counts dollar-for-dollar against your SSI. So in this example, \$180 would be deducted from the base amount of your SSI payment.

For earned income (like wages or self employment) we exclude an additional \$65 per month. If your only income besides SSI is wages or self-employment and there is no unearned income, the additional \$20 exclusion is added on. This means your exclusion for earned income would be \$85 per month.

When your income is from work, as in this case, we only subtract 50 cents for every dollar you earn out of your SSI check base amount. So in this example, even though you worked and earned \$200, your SSI payment would only be reduced by \$57.50.

It is important to remember that we use your gross income, not your net income, to compute the monthly amounts. Also, there are some sorts of income which we do not count at all, such as food stamps, food from churches and soup kitchens, and shelter you receive from most private, non-profit organizations. We also exclude most home energy assistance.

If you believe you might qualify for SSI, call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) or check out our website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov). You can also read our online publication, *You May Be Able to Get SSI*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11069.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11069.html). SSI may be just the thing you need to supplement your income.



**WEDNESDAYS**  
Cannonline Poetry  
Open Mic Series  
Cannon Coffee  
802 Brookline Blvd.  
8:00PM to 10:00PM



**Brookline Year  
Round Farm Stand**  
Seton Center  
1900 Pioneer Ave  
Every Wednesday  
11:00AM—6:00PM



### STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHELSA WAGNER

I am pleased that Brookline will have a convenient new option for grocery shopping with the opening of the **Aldi** store at the corner of McNeilly Road and Sussex Ave. on November 18. I had been pleased to advocate since taking office for returning a grocery to the former Foodland site on the border of Brookline and Baldwin Township.

**Aldi** has constructed a brand new facility at the site that should serve as a destination for affordable groceries for several communities. I am happy to welcome **Aldi** to our community and urge shoppers to visit the new store.

I am also excited that small grocery and specialty food stores of the kind that once defined many city neighborhoods are making a comeback in Brookline. The new **Brookline Produce** shop at 815 Brookline Blvd. brings fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs and dairy to our neighborhood, and **Las Palmas** at 700 Brookline Blvd., offering fresh meats and Mexican grocery items, recently celebrated its first anniversary.

Across the country and around our region, access to a grocery store has proven to be an important factor in the success of a community. These new businesses are important to maintaining the quality of life in our neighborhood and promoting its future success. Of course, the only way to ensure that these businesses thrive is to shop at them and remind family and friends to do the same. I encourage all area residents to visit these businesses and see what they have to offer.

**\*\*CLASSIFIED ADS\*\***

<p><b>SOFA FOR SALE</b></p>	<p><b>MANTEL MIRROR—FREE</b></p>	<p><b>DOGWALKER/PET SITTER</b></p>
<p>Traditional styling with reversible cushions. Tan, cream, rust, brown fine-striped textured velvet. Excellent condition--seldom used. 82" long x 32" deep x 31" high. \$100, you haul. Call 412-561-6880</p>	<p>30"x 60"--good condition, holes drilled in mirror for mounting to wall. You haul. 412-561-6880</p>	<p>Experienced, insured. Call Donna at 412-526-8834 or email: <a href="mailto:DonnasDoggiecare@msn.com">DonnasDoggiecare@msn.com</a></p>

**THIS MONTH**


**January 10 Monday**  
**Chamber of Commerce** 5:45PM at Carnegie Library 708 Brookline Blvd.

**January 11 Tuesday**  
**Brookline Block Watch** 7:00PM at Magistrate Jim Motznic's office 736 Brookline Blvd.

**January 17 Monday**  
**South Pittsburgh Development Corp.** 7:00PM at Brookline Blvd. United Presbyterian Church 1036 Brookline Blvd.

**January 31**  
**Brookline Area Community Council** 7:30PM at St. Mark's Church corner of Brookline Blvd. & Glenarm Ave.

**INFANT/TODDLER TEACHER POSITION**



**Infant/Toddler Teacher Job Posting December 2010**  
 Angels' Place, Inc., a NAEYC accredited, non-profit comprehensive family support agency serving single, low-income, full time student parents and their children between the ages of birth – 5 years old, is seeking a full time Toddler Teacher for its Brookline Center. The ideal candidate would have a Bachelors Degree in ECE or related field, plus experience working with at-risk families. Clearances required. EOE. To learn more about Angels' Place and to download an application, please visit [www.angelsplacepgh.org](http://www.angelsplacepgh.org). No phone calls, please. Please send application, resume & cover letter to:  
 Andrea Schachner, Brookline Program Director  
 Email: [aschachner@angelsplacepgh.org](mailto:aschachner@angelsplacepgh.org)  
 Fax: (412) 531.1255  
 Mail: 600 Fordham Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226



Did you see our new wreaths? They were made possible with the teamwork from the residents, Brookline businesses, **South Pittsburgh Development Corp., Brookline Chamber of Commerce** and a especially **State Senator Wayne Fontana**. Thank you everyone.

*-Lois McCafferty*

**Kribel's Bakery Inc.**  
 Specializing in Cakes for All Occasions  
 Brookline 412-531-1942  
 Open 7 Days



Pleasant Hills 412-653-1717      Great Southern Shopping Ctr. 412-220-9548



**Call for Volunteers**

- **FOREVER HOME BEAGLE RESCUE** call 412-304-4034 or [BeagleHQ@msn.com](mailto:BeagleHQ@msn.com) Foster homes needed as well as donations of dog food, blankets and bath towels.
- **DOGIPOT MAINTENANCE** call 412-343-2859
- **MEALS ON WHEELS** sponsored by **St. Mark's Lutheran Church** call 412-343-8144
- **MEALS ON WHEELS** sponsored by **Lutheran Service Society** call 412-366-9490
- **SENIOR VAN TRANSPORTATION** call 412-344-4222
- **BROOKLINE CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY** call **Pat Erny** 412-344-8451
- **CLOTHES CLOSET MINISTRY** call **Brookline United Presbyterian Church** at 412-531-0590

Are you unable to volunteer your time right now? You can still help many of these organizations. **Meals on Wheels** accepts cash and donations of cookies, desserts and bread. Add a grocery store gift card to your shopping cart and send it to the **Brookline Christian Food Pantry, c/o Pat Erny, 2918 Pioneer Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226-2038**

**"When kids volunteer it tells others that they don't have to be perfect or famous or even grown up to make a difference."**  
*- Kalynn Dobos, age 7*

# WHAT'S NEW ON THE BOULEVARD



Have you tried the chocolate chip pretzel from **Vinnie's Pretzel Shoppe** yet? A warm chocolate chip pretzel is as good as a donut!

-Photos by *Catia Alencar*



We have **Melissa Distal Photography** at 800 Brookline Boulevard and **Cuts & Styles** at 748 Brookline Boulevard. Take a walk and check them out.

-Photos by *Catia Alencar*

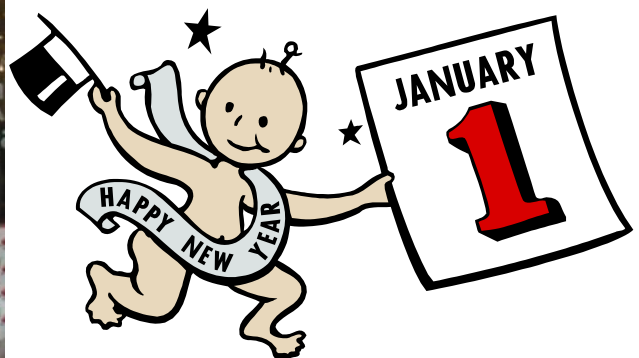


# CHRISTMAS IN BROOKLINE



The **Brookline Chamber of Commerce** and **Cannon Coffee** sponsored our first Brookline Christmas Social on Friday, November 27. The social began with a reception featuring pizza from **Antonio's Pizzeria**, pretzels from **Vinnie's Pretzel Shoppe**, cookies from **Party Cake Bakery**, and hot cocoa from **Cannon Coffee**. Everything was donated. Thank you! Santa listened to Christmas wishes followed by the lighting of the Memory Tree. After Santa left to finish Christmas preparations, Gretchen read Christmas stories. The evening ended with an ugly sweater community social. The Brookline Christmas Social was a huge success.

-Photos & article by *Lois McCafferty*





# CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"America's Most Livable City"

---

## *Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl*

---

January 2011

Dear Neighbors,

Happy New Year! Winter's short days and cold temperatures often bring higher energy bills, but there are opportunities year round to reduce your energy consumption and save money without sacrificing comfort. Make your New Year's resolution to save energy and money. Here are some tips, and organizations that can help:

Take small steps such as **Weather-stripping** to seal leaks at the edges of windows or doors; **Caulking** to seal gaps that don't open and shut (e.g. where a fireplace or an air vent is built into the wall); and **Insulating** to keep the warm air in and the cool air out!

In an effort to increase home energy efficiency, the U.S. Department of Energy recently announced a pilot Home Energy Scoring Program. Similar to the government-rating for fuel efficiency of vehicles, a standardized home energy score is expected to help Americans know how many "miles to the gallon" their homes get. Allegheny County was chosen as one of ten areas selected for this pilot project. The Pittsburgh-region pilot will partner with existing neighborhood house tours to highlight the score of energy efficiency improvements. If your neighborhood association is interested in learning more, please contact EfficiencyPA's program manager John Horchner at 412-428-9533. Homeowners interested in the House Tour with a Home Energy Score, may visit [www.energycpa.com/housetour](http://www.energycpa.com/housetour) for more information.

Other loan and utility assistance programs for residents:

- **Home Improvement Loans:** The Urban Redevelopment Authority offers low- and no-interest loans for home renovations and repairs, including energy efficiency improvements. Contact: 412-255-6600.
- **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):** A federally funded program that provides cash assistance with residential heating bills. Contact: 412-562-2146.  
**LIHEAP Crisis Assistance** assists with termination notices, service restoration, delivery of heating fuel (oil, kerosene, wood, propane) and emergency repairs/replacements to a heating system or to gas or fuel lines. Contact: 1-800-851-3838.
- **\$1 Energy Fund:** Provides utility assistance to customers who "fall through the cracks" of other programs or still have a critical need after other resources have been exhausted. Contact: 412-431-2800.

For more information on these programs and other sustainability updates, please visit <http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/green/updates.htm>.

Wishing you a warm and safe New Year,

Luke Ravenstahl  
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

512 CITY-COUNTY BUILDING 414 GRANT STREET PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219

Phone: 412-255-2626 ■ Fax 412-255-8602

[www.pgh.gov](http://www.pgh.gov)